

## Republicans Strike Back

# AT&T Aid to Democrats Charged

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sen. Robert Dole, the Republican national chairman, said today the American Telephone & Telegraph Co. appears to have violated the law twice by agreeing to install telephones at the Democratic National Convention in Miami despite a \$1.5 million outstanding debt from the 1968 convention.

In a news conference in which he presented a Republican counter-attack against claims the International Telephone & Telegraph Co. agreed to underwrite part of this year's GOP convention in return for favorable handling federal antitrust cases against the firm, Dole said of the alleged AT&T arrangement:

"This is a very substantial contribution to the Democrat Committee from one single corporation — substantially more than the \$100,000 guarantee to the city of San Diego which has been falsely alleged to have been given to the Republican National Convention."

A spokesman for Democratic Chairman Lawrence F. O'Brien scoffed at Dole's charges.

"It is very obvious the Republican national chairman is attempting to divert public attention from a major scandal that is reaching right into the White House," he said.

"The attempt will not work, the scandal remains, and the public will not be deceived by this attempt by Sen. Dole."

Dole said the federal criminal code barring contributions by corporations to political parties or candidates includes a loan or anything of value.

"CARRYING A \$1.5 million debt for four years and then consenting to increase the size of the debt with no assurance of repayment must be considered at the very least a loan, if not an outright gift and surely 'something of value' as defined by statute," Dole said.

"The deal unjustly discriminates against all of us who pay our bills on time or find our phone service cut off," he

added.

The Kansas Republican called for public hearings to investigate the alleged agreement because he said the public is entitled to know whether AT&T views its arrangement with the Democratic Party "as a risk—or as a possible investment."

HE SAID the alleged arrangements provide the Democrats with "an undue advantage against those political parties and candidates that feel obligated to comply with the law and pay their bills."

Dole spoke bitterly of his own party's troubles, which now are in the public spotlight in the form of hearings before the Senate Judiciary Committee into the qualifications of Richard Kleindienst to be U.S. attorney general.

Dole said the memo allegedly written by ITT lobbyist Dita Beard linking an ITT contribution to the GOP convention and the settlement of antitrust cases is an unfortunate, thoroughly discredited

document "which would be questionable evidence in any court of law."